



# BC Community Living Action Group (BC-CLAG)

A provincial network of service, support, and advocacy organizations, family groups, & other community living stakeholders

## **Speaking notes: BC CLAG presentation to the Select Standing Committee on Finance & Government Services, Vancouver, September 15, 2011**

**Presenter: Anita Dadson**

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### **1. About BC's community living sector:**

- BC has an estimated 40,000 adults with developmental disabilities eligible for residential and other supports to live safely in their communities. About 10% require costly, intensive supports.
- Community Living BC (CLBC) was created in 2006 and provides varying levels of provincially-funded support to roughly one in four adults in the eligible population.
- Families now provide & fund the vast majority of support for adults with developmental disabilities.

### **2. About the BC Community Living Action Group:**

A network of provincial organizations representing community living stakeholders. Its members are:

- The BC Association for Community Living
  - Developmental Disabilities Association
  - BC FamilyNet
  - Moms on the Move
  - BC Coalition of People with Disabilities
  - BC Government Employees Union
  - Hospital Employees Union
  - Health Sciences Association
  - Canadian Union of Public Employees
  - Michael J. Prince, Lansdowne Professor of Social Policy, University of Victoria
- CLAG was formed in response to growing alarm in 2010 about the impact of CLBC's budget constraints, group home closures and service redesign on vulnerable adults and their families
  - CLAG represents an unprecedented consensus among all BC's community living stakeholders

### **3. CLAG is working collaboratively to identify issues and solutions to the community living crisis**

- Since March 2011, CLAG has repeatedly attempted (without success to date) to meet with the Minister responsible for community living and/or the Premier to discuss issues and solutions
- In April 2011, CLAG issued a consensus report summing up the results of our community consultations, and setting out the issues and recommended solutions
- Since April, CLAG and its partners have continued to undertake research and to monitor and report on challenges in community living



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## 4. The information package provided to this committee includes a CLAG analysis of CLBC budget data.

### Key conclusions:

- The number of clients requiring CLBC-funded support has grown faster than provincial budgets, leading to significantly reduced funding available per individual.
- Despite rising costs and demands, this sector absorbed a \$77.5 million budget cut in 2003/04.
- In 2010, CLBC was asked to provide a further \$22 million in savings.
- Despite 5% annual net growth in clients, CLBC's budget has been frozen from 2010 to 2014.
- \$70 million in new provincial funding is needed immediately to cover the backlog of unfunded new demands for 2010 and 2011.
  - **Yesterday's announcement** provides \$6 million in new one-time funding for CLBC supports, plus previously-announced funding for young adults in crisis who aren't eligible for CLBC.
  - BC CLAG is pleased with this acknowledgement of the crisis, but the response is inadequate.
  - The \$6 million can support 123 adults with developmental disabilities for one year, based on CLBC's average of \$48,800 in annual per person costs. For 2010 and 2011 alone, CLBC has a net backlog of almost 1,400 additional unfunded adults who urgently require support. If the new funds are focused on high-needs adults, CLBC can expect to serve even fewer than 123.
  - Conclusion: The announcement does not address or reflect an understanding of the crisis.
- Additional budget increases of \$35 million annually are required for each of the next two fiscal years (2012/13 and 2013/14).
- The proposed increases are the minimum needed to serve youths who currently rely on MCFD supports as they turn 19 and transition to CLBC-funded adult services.
- These amounts do not address past or anticipated cost increases (e.g. MSP premiums, HST).

The growing budget gap has caused serious harm to individuals and families and significantly weakened the sector. Failure to act urgently will intensify the crisis and the growing human health and safety risks.

### Other urgent BC CLAG recommendations with budget implications include:

- Establish an independent representative to monitor and report on the health, safety and wellbeing of adults with developmental disabilities
- Commission an external review of CLBC to investigate growing concerns about its operational practices and effectiveness.

CLAG wishes to thank the committee on behalf of all our partner organizations. We are happy to provide any further information on request.